

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5, 7, 9, 13-15, 20, 22-24, 28-29 and 35-36 remain in the application. Claims 9 and 29 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected species. By this amendment, claims 13-15, 20, 22 and 24 have been amended, and claims 12, 16-19, 21 and 25 have been cancelled. Applicants believe no new matter has been added by the amendments, full support therefore being shown in the drawings and specification as filed.

Applicants acknowledge with thanks the Examiner's determination of allowability of claims 1, 5, 7, 35-36, as well as claim 25 if rewritten to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended claim 20 to include the limitations of claim 25 and intervening claim 21. Accordingly, the dependencies of claims 22 and 24 were amended to reflect the cancellation of claim 21.

All claims remaining in the application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claim Rejections

Claims 12-16, 20-22, 24 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by De Giulio, U.S. Patent No. 4,993,786 ("De Giulio"). Claims 12-16, 18-24 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Uihlein, U.S. Patent No. 7,082,783 ("Uihlein"). Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over De Giulio. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections, and request reconsideration of the claims.

Claims 12 and 16-19 have been cancelled without prejudice such that the rejections of these claims are moot. Claims 13-15 have been amended to depend from allowed claim 1, such that these claims should be deemed allowable. Claim 20 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 25 and intervening claim 21, such that the rejections of claims 20, 22-24 and 28 have been overcome.

Conclusion

This after-final amendment does not raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search, since the proposed amendments incorporate previously recited limitations from dependent claims into the independent claims and these limitations have been previously considered and searched by the Examiner; does not raise the issue of new matter, since the proposed amendments have support in the originally filed application including the specification, claims and drawings; does place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing and/or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or does not present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to all of the outstanding rejections, and Applicants therefore respectfully request that this amendment be entered.

No fees or extensions of time are believed to be due in connection with this filing. However, please consider this a request for any extension inadvertently omitted, and charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 23-1660.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims are allowable over the prior art of record. Early notification of allowability is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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